WASHINGTON.

MONDAY January 15, 1906

CROSBY S. NOYES..... Editor THE STAR has a regular and permanent

Pamily Circulation mach more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor,

[7] In order to avoid delays on account of personal absence, lette s to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the THE STAR, or to the Estorial or Business Departments, according to tenor or

The Canal Inquiry.

The New York American, in some observations about an inquiry the Senate has ordered, says:

"The Panama canal should have been the great accomplishment of the Roosevelt ad-ministration. The man who could carry it to completion during his term in the White House might almost challenge with Thomas Jefferson, who bought the Louislana terri-tory, the right to pre-eminence as the great benefactor of the nation. President Roose-velt, however, approaches the middle of what he says will be his last term in office. and today competent students say that the canal, for which he promised quick completion, has scarcely progressed beyond the point at which the French left it to us."

The man who in four years could dig a ditch which engineers allow eight or ten years for might challenge with Jehoshephat the right to pre-eminence as not only a nine, but a ninety, days' wonder. It was never in Mr. Roosevelt's power to have the work completed by the 4th of March, 1909. If every point in dispute had been settled; if dirt had begun to fly the day after the Spooner bill became a law; if fever and ague had bowed themselves off the isthmus and announced that they would never return, the digging of the canal would only have been started during the present administration.

Let us indulge in no exaggerations about this business. It is a job of gigantic size, and, resourceful and competent as the American people are, we are going to be it. Money, management, courage and patience will all be necessary as we go along. There should be no politics in it at any stage of the game; for, as a rule, when partisan politics, in the matter of our greater policies where business and the public credit obtain, comes in at the door, many valuable things fly out at the window. If we had been guided less by partisanship and more by higher considerations in dealing with the tariff and the finances in the past, we should have paid far less for what

we have obtained of value in those lines. The Senate's inquiry is to be welcomed not as an effort to put anybody in a hole, nor with a view of developing material for next fall's congressional campaigns, but solely for the purpose of taking the latest shown to be. We all have great confidence in Secretary Taft, and we may all be sure that he is dealing with the utmost frankness with the public on the subject, and will assist the Senate in every line of legitimate investigation. His deliverances are based upon information obtained by persons competent to gather it, and who act. as he does, in a responsible and official

Pennsylvania.

The state of Pennsylvania enters today upon a crisis in its career as a self-governing American commonwealth, and its course will be watched with concern by all citizens. The unique spectacle is presented of a legislature elected under boss rule, summoned by a governor elected under the same auspices to do certain things demanded by an insurgent people and to undo certain other things condemned by the finally aroused body politic. The legislative majority is composed of the same men as at the last regular session. If the November election had not resulted as it did, in the ouster of the ring treasurer of the state and the emphatic rebuke of the city machine of Philadelphia, there would have been no special session.

It remains to be seen how clearly the majority at Harrisburg reads its instructions. As interpreted by the governor, who promptly read aright the verdict of the people, they are to accomplish the following results, specifically named by him as required in the interest of the commonwealth: The enactment of new laws to regulate the deposits and to safeguard the funds of the state; the repeal of the Philadelphia "ripper" laws; the establishment of a system of uniform primary elections; reform of the registration laws; a law to regulate the use of money at elections: a reapportionment of the legislative districts of the state and the institution of a state civil service system. A few other matters have been named by the governor in his original and amended calls for the session, but those cited embrace the chief duties

Of all these propositions that to regulate the handling of the state funds is the most urgent. It stands for the issue on which the state machine was broken last fall. The new treasurer of the commonwealth was elected by the independent voters, and if he is to make a success of his administration, with all its serious problems, as in part demonstrated by the failure of the Enterprise Bank of Allegheny, he must have the support of honest laws. If the legislature makes a muddle of this matter or refuses to approach it in a spirit of sincere reform, it will invite a complete disaster to the republican machine at the next general election.

The New York republicans are adopting the general maxim of the day, which is "Tell your troubles to the President."

Morales would probably advise his successor not to attempt any big-stick system of government.

Coal War or Coal Peace?

The relations between the anthracite workers and the operators of the hard coal mines are approaching a crisis, and another both sides have recuperated from the disastrous effects of the great strike of three years and a half ago. Ever since the meeting of the hard coal workers at Shamokin a few weeks ago negotiations have been in progress between the leaders of the miners and the mine owners, with the result, it is stated, that a conference between them is virtually assured. The basis of this conference and the outlook for an agreement are not known, but it is generally understood that John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of Amer-Ica, is inclined to an adjustment which will

to the annual convention of the United Mine Workers at Indianapolis, to be held this week. Delegates are now moving in that direction from all parts of the coala curious condition prevails. Numerically to serve as a bulwark of morality. If it is the soft-coal men are heavily in the majority in the organization, but a disposition of the property in the organization, but a disposition of the property is also to be main-good campaign slogan.

THE EVENING STAR. prevails, it is understood, to defer to the nard-coal men, whose grievances are more acute and more emphatically voiced. If an arrangement can be effected for the recognition of the union, in some practicable manner, there will probably be no inclination on the part of the bituminous

miners to enter into a struggle. Little is heard in the reports from the various centers of the coal mining industry about the eight-hour demand. It is entirely subordinated to the demand for recognition, and the feeling seems to prevail that through recognition can particular demands for change of working conditions be most effectively pressed. It is regarded, therefore, as probable that on this point the conference between the mine workers and the operators, to be held, in all likelihood, about the 1st of February, will be chiefly concentrated.

If, as the reports indicate, John Mitchell stands for a continuation of the peace agreement, the outlook for the consumer of coal is bright, as far as the strike danger is concerned, for this man's influence with his followers is dominating. The people who burn coal do not care, as a rule, whether the fuel they use is mined by union or nonunion men, or whether those men work eight or ten or twelve hours a day, or what they get, unless the adjustment of hours and wages forces them to pay excessive prices for their coal. They do care, however, if they are compelled to pay exorbitant prices, and they have a particular aversion to finding the market suddenly gripped by a shortage caused by the stubbornness of one side or the other of the producing equation. They dread a repetition of the experience of 1902, and they are trusting now to the common sense and the selfish caution of both the operators and the workers in this emergency to avoid a conflict, and at the same time to reach a settlement which will not lay an unbearable burden upon the shoulders of the con-

Chicago.

The people of Chicago should not stop at the question of municipal ownership of street railroads. While about it, they should try to own the streets themselves Evidently they are not the possessors, or it would be safe for women and children to go about unattended in broad daylight. The women, we are told, are advised to arm themselves. Presently we should hear of the establishment of shooting-galleries, where they may indulge in target practice, taxed in our highest capacities to execute and so be ready for the stranglers and stabbers who infest the town.

If such a condition of things existed in Havana should we not hear a chorus of I-told-you-sos filling the camp of the antiimperialists with a sort of joy? What food for the wiseacres who were confident that the Cubans were not, and could not become, capable of self-government! Who with half an idea in his noddle did not know that a few months of so-called self-

government would produce just this thing? Or, worse still, if this story came from Manila, what confirmation it would afford of the charge that, instead of civilization, we are producing anarchy in the Philippines! The old Aguinaldo Aid Society of Boston would sit up and take notice, and a series of resolutions three columns long be bearings and guiding by what they are adopted reciting the stupidity of the policy in taking over the islands, the lying which has been indulged in respecting meritorious work done there, and the crying necessity of our getting out and away at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Winslow would do his liveliest stunt in the name of human liberty and all that is

> But the town involved is the second in size of the United States; the commercial ghenies. The story is bad enough, and a severe reflection on the authorities, and no pains or expense should be spared to restore and preserve order. If necessary, the police force should be doubled to make the road safe at all hours, day and night. But civilization has not failed on the shores of Lake Michigan. The charter of Chicago should not be surrendered. We may not believe that even the people who are so busy making money that riot and murder find them unprepared are incapable of selfgovernment. We shall see them wake up now, and give a better account of them-

> The Italian vendor who left banana peels on the steps of Dr. Parkhurst's church was evidently a very ill-informed citizen or he would never have angered a man with the doctor's capacity for raising objections.

It is feared that the only Annapolis students who never hazed are those who have not been at the academy long enough to claim the privilege.

There is no doubt that Mr. Poultney Bigeow is a man of achievement. Very few investigators could stir up so much comment in twenty-eight hours.

The question of whether the Philippines produce good cigars is complicated by the fact that a gift cigar should never be criti-

There is no reformer whose indignation against the railways can equal that of a Pittsburg city official deprived of his pass.

Mr. W. J. Bryan is missing a chance to make some very sarcastic remarks by being away during the insurance investigations.

An Interstate Divorce Case.

Another marital tangle is occupying the attention of a New York court, with the prospect of lingering long on the judicial stage. Wife Number One-there was one before her, it seems, but she does not count is suing for the annulment of a divorce decree granted to her husband in North Dakota. Wife Number Two wants to know where she stands in the case. Husband declares that he was legally divorced and was entitled to remarry. Wife Number One avers that she was never served with notice in the divorce case and has suffered innocently. Wife Number Two asserts that she married the man in entire ignorance of any question as to his right to take her as his wife, although she knew he was married when she met him. Husband's attorneys intimate that wife Number One raised no objection until her income stopped, some time after she knew the divorce had been granted. Taken altogether, it is a situation to appeal to the heart of the lawyers, who are likely to obtain the chief satisfaction from the snarl.

This is another argument strengthening the demand for the unification of the divorce laws in this country. It should not be possible for a man to slip out of the state of which he has been for years a citizen, acquire a so-called citizenship in a distant commonwealth by residing there for half a year, and then, virtually in secret, procure a divorce from his wife, who may be in total ignorance of the steps he is taking or the charges he is alleging in his own behalf. It should not be possible, again, for a divorced person to remarry in one state and then to maintain his second wife in another state, of which the statutes prohibit the remarriage of the divorced. It should yield a new peace agreement with the not be possible for a man to divorce his wife in one state and then in another state to Meanwhile much importance is attached stop paying alimony, depending for im-to the annual convention of the United munity upon the difficulty of securing interstate action to compel him to meet his ob-

The divorce evils constitute a problem mining field. The subject of a general which the people of this country must soon strike of both the hard and soft coal miners take up for solution unless the institution of is certain to be agitated. In this connection | marriage is to fall into disrepute and cease

tained that they should be regulated on a national plane, and not according to state oundaries. The day has long passed when those boundaries confine the business and social activities of the individual. Joint action by all the states, in agreement upon s uniform plan, is out of the question. If ever this country is to put an end to the scan-dalous possibilities for the evasion of duty, the wreaking of revenge, the gratification of illicit passions and the breaking up of home which the present confusion of laws affords, it must definitely declare this to be national question, and enact a statute of the United States, perhaps based upon a constitutional amendment, which writes one law for all the people, wherever they may

The Filipino, were he consulted, would probably prefer a tariff system which will not develop industries that will call for his services as a laboring man.

M. Witte finds it necessary to remind the Russians that any concessions by the government are conditional on good behavior.

The silent immobility of Mr. H. H. Rogers must be especially tempting to the artists whose efforts he so much resents.

After a little experience with mountain lions Mr. W. R. Hearst may tackle the Tammany tiger again.

England has just experienced an unprece dented political landslide. It is in the atr.

SHOOTING STARS.

Striving to Please. "It grieves me to find that you prefer

saying disagreeable things about people," said the considerate woman. "Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "and it grives me to find such a universal preference for hearing disagreeable things."

A Later Consideration. "How long do you think it will take to build the Panama canal?" said the inquisi-

"I haven't begun to figure on that," answered the expert. "What I am trying to ascertain now is how long it will take to get the building actually started."

The Test.

It isn't hard to make a speech. Most any one can do it. But genuine success you reach If people listen to it.

Modern Food.

"I have decided that the man who de elops the country's resources and helps to provide food for the masses, is doing a most useful work," said the earnest citi-

"So you have decided to be one of the food producers?"

"Which are you going to do, run a farm or set up a chemical laboratory?"

Grown Wise.

"Is yoh husban' lookin' foh work?" "Yes." answered Mrs. Pinkley. "He's ione foun' out dat its less work to go out lookin' foh work dan it is to stay home an' chop wood an' carry water foh de wash

A Professor's Relaxation. A little nonsense now and then, We've frequently been told, Is relished by the best of men;

But other people's nonsense makes The sage with anguish groan. A product of his own.

The sayin's very old.

Nor does he always laugh with glee To hail his merry jest; He'll set it forth where all may see In solemn language dressed. With syllogistic phrase he'll strut,

And curious words he'll frame. It gives the wise man pleasure, but It's nonsense just the same.

Work and Worry. From the Atlanta Journal.

"I am working too hard. My work is killing me." The man is mistaken. Work does not kill. Work is medicine to the body and mind and spirit. Work is the salvation of men. Work cures a thousand ills. Worry kills. Dissipation kills. Worry is largely a matter of nerves or indigestion or liver. Or it may be a quality of temperament, or it may spring from envy or some other hateful habit of thought. In most cases worry is concerning things purely imaginary—things that cannot be helped. One of the best cures for the worry habit is work, hard work of body and mind. Work requires concentration of effort and mind. That makes one forget his troubles. Work may be made a joy. And in the joy of working there is no room for worry. Right living, right thinking, work—these are specifics for most of the ills caused by

Municipal Bondage to Parties.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Few things in human conduct are stranger than the operations of "party loyalty." In makes good men apologists for and tools of the political manipulator. It blinds them to obvious civic duty. It is a disguise of virtue under which the exploiter of political power successfully cloaks and plies his trade. It is a stumbling block in the road of municipal independence and progress.

Peanut Politics.

From the Milwaukee Free Press. Members who claim to be in favor of tariff revision and at the same time oppose this reduction in the interests of the Fil-ipinos, and in the interests of the successful solution of the problem of governing the islands, are guilty of peanut politics, and forfelt the respect of the country by their actions. The pretended concern of these members for the interests of their without any sound reason back of it.

Benjamin Franklin.

From the New York World. The American people can never become too familiar with the life and works of Ben jamin Franklin. They cannot know too nuch about that wise, tactful, prudent, sac-rificing patriot who touched human life at more points than any other man of his century, not excepting Voltaire.

"Poulty" Bigelow.

Poor Poultney Bigelow! Will he refuse to answer "on the advice of counse!"? The idea of asking a heated magazine sensa-tionelist to prove his "facts" on the witness stand! Why, the yellow monthlies would have to become sedate if many of their experts had to go through such an experience,

Still, if his Cossacks can kill off enough subjects to preserve the peace, where is Nicholas to get the taxes to keep up the

Wall Street and Money. From the Chicago News.

Must Slow Up.

From the Newark Advertiser.

Wall street would do its best to make use of a more elastic currency simply to stretch the opportunities for gambling.

The Debt. The hell of war is not all in its actual operation, as both Russia and Japan are now finding out.

Only "Poulty."

From the Indianapolis News. Tut, tut, Mr. Taft! Why bother about it? It was only Poultney Bigalow.

Anywhere.



"Worth Three Times as Much"

A physician of Pitts-burg says: "There is no question about the value of McClure's. I am discontinuing every other magazine on my table which has been or is selling at one dollar. I am renewing Mc-Clure's because it is easily worth three times what you

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Made of excellent quality muslin and cambric; full width; finished with deep umbrella and circular flounces; deep hemstitched tucks, others with neat patterns of lace and fine tucks; full foundation; lengths 38 40 42 foundation; lengths, 38, 40,42 and 44. Regular prices, 75c. 46c.

about ten styles; full width; finished with deep ruffle, hemstitched; others embroidery trimmed; also with fine tucks; sizes 23, 25, 27 and 29. Regular price, 39c. Special 23C.

price..... Umbrella Skirts. Made of good quality cambric and muslin; deep lawn flounce; the entire flounce of lace insertion edged with lace; others with deep circular flounce;

Women's Night Gowns, About ten styles; full width and length; made of splendid quality muslin; yoke back and front; neatly tucked neck and sleeves; daintily trimmed with embroidery edging; others with square neck; lace trimmed; 46C. also with hemstitched yokes; all sizes. Worth 75c. and \$1.00. Special....

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